

may be read in such a way as to exclude those cases where the individual is represented by the Senate Legal Counsel or the House Office of General Counsel rather than the Department of Justice (for example, in a lawsuit between the legislative and executive branches concerning executive privilege).

Summarily H.R. 2633 extends the 60 day filing deadline to any civil action, suit, or proceeding in which one of the parties is "a current or former U.S. officer or employee sued in an individual capacity for an act. This amendment provides the government with the time it needs to review the case, determine whether an appeal should be taken, and secure the Solicitor General's approval for that appeal. These same policy reasons apply in a case where the United States—through DOJ or some other federal litigating entity—decides to represent a current or former officer or employee sued in his or her individual capacity.

I applaud my friend from Michigan, Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee for introducing this important legislation to protect past and present federal employees. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF VICKI AND
DAVID PORTMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vicki and David Portman, the 2011 Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County's Tribute Dinner honorees. Mr. and Mrs. Portman have dedicated their lives to serving the community and are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Mrs. Vicki Portman was compelled by childhood memories to give back to the community. Instilled with the basic tenets of Judaism, Mrs. Portman has been involved in the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, where she chaired the Business and Professional Women Foundation and served as Vice President of Campaign as well as Allocations. Most recently, Mrs. Portman has been involved with the New York United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Federation and continues to hold several positions with the Manhattan Women's Campaign. Mrs. Portman is presently a member of Women's Executive Circle (WEC) and on the Board of Directors of UJA New York Federation, as well as many other prestigious organizations. She also sits on the Ethiopian Taskforce. Mrs. Portman earned her Bachelor of Arts from New York University and a Master's degree in Speech Pathology from Seton Hall University. She also completed a graduate certificate program in Training, Development & Organizational Diagnosis through the New School's Graduate School of Management. Mrs. Portman's professional endeavors led her to teach high school Public Speaking and English and she also served as school speech therapist. In 1988 she began Executive Communication, a communications consulting organization which she continues to manage today.

Mr. David Portman is the second of three children who were born and raised near Atlantic City, New Jersey. Mr. Portman's values of community, motivation to succeed and the de-

sire to share his success with those less fortunate are evident through his various activities. He touts an impressive history of involvement and volunteerism in the Jewish Community, most notably filling the role of Building Fund Chairman and Vice President of Temple Beth Torah. Mr. Portman served two terms as President of the Monmouth County Jewish Federation and also held many other notable positions with this organization. Similarly, he is recognized for his role as Monmouth County Representative to New Jersey Board of Federations and was subsequently appointed Commissioner for Economic Development between Israel and New Jersey for his impressive actions. He has also served on the National Campaign Cabinet for Israel Bonds and as Vice President and on the Board of Directors for Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). Mr. Portman is the current Chairman of Development for the Home for the Aged of the Workman's Circle organization.

The Portmans share a passion for travel and often relate their travel destinations to their desire to further enhance their knowledge of Jewish history and culture around the world. Dedicated to protecting human rights and civil rights issues worldwide, Mr. and Mrs. Portman are lifetime members of the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Center. They have also arranged separate scholarship funds to financially support a student's trip to Israel. The Portmans are the proud parents of three sons, Howard, Lee and Billy and have welcomed into their family their daughter-in-law Emily and three grandchildren, Ava, Max and Easy. Their continuous commitment to the Jewish community is only surpassed by their devotion to family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Vicki and David Portman for their outstanding service to the community and congratulate them on the honor bestowed by the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County. Their philanthropic efforts are a shining example of what hard work and dedication can accomplish.

SPEECH BY JEFFREY BLEICH, U.S.
AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a speech given by Jeffrey Bleich U.S. Ambassador to Australia commemorating the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Mr. Bleich's speech eloquently addresses the tragedy of that day, our struggle to come to terms with what happened and our resiliency in the years since 9/11. The harrowing experience of his friend, Jeff Thompson, reminds us that while September 11th left an indelible mark on the nation, it was also a deeply personal tragedy for the thousands of Americans in New York City, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania and elsewhere, who felt the full brunt of the violence of that day on their families and friends. I am pleased to enter the Ambassador's full speech into the RECORD today.

SEPTEMBER 11TH 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION SPEECH JEFFREY BLEICH U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA

The Honorable Ms. Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia and Mr. Tim

Mathieson, Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, of more than 70 nations, The Honorable Mr. Tony Abbott, Leader of the Opposition, Ms. Katy Gallagher, Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory, General David Hurley, Chief of the Australian Defence Force and Mrs. Linda Hurley, Members of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Chiefs of the Australian Defense Force Services, Senior Members of the Australian Public Service, Members of Australian First Responder Services, and welcome to our visiting international dignitary, the Honourable Mr. Peter MacKay, Canadian Minister of National Defence, Distinguished guests, friends and family from many countries.

We come together today to remember a terrible day; but even more to consider the days that have followed and that will follow.

It has been ten years since September 11.

The world that we imagined on September 10, 2001 all changed—changed utterly—in 24 hours. That morning of 9/11, thousands of men and women, Americans, Australians, and people of dozens of nationalities, Christians, Jews, Muslims, awoke thinking it was a normal day. In New York City they headed to work in the World Trade Towers. In Boston, Newark, and D.C., they rushed off to the airport to catch the early morning flight to San Francisco. In New York, firefighters and police officers—men and women—kissed their spouses or partners goodbye as they left for the station. They all had their plans for the day: their meetings, who they would see at lunch, friends, appointments, errands with children. The world they imagined that morning, like the life they imagined, was one filled with many more days and years. They assumed life in all its fullness, whatever that life was. The ideals they held, the religion they practiced, the people they chose as their friends, their political views, the words they chose to say.

We don't refer to these things usually as "freedom of religion," "freedom of speech," "freedom of association," "equality," or "liberty." We just call it living. We call it life. And likely so did the people on that day too.

But that casual belief changed on September 11. These men and women—sons, daughters, fathers, mothers—were killed that day for simply living as they did, and where they did. People from over 90 nations were killed because they chose to live in a land that celebrated these values.

For those of us who survived, it was also a day we never imagined. Wherever we were, in countries around the world, we imagined a normal day as well. None of us expected the world to stop, and for us to watch in horror as people—people like us—perished before our very eyes, in flames, and ash, and rubble.

Faced suddenly with a world that we'd never imagined, the stark question for each of us to answer was this: "what do we do now?"

If people like us were going to be killed for living as we did, what would we do now?

One of the people asking this question was my college roommate, Jeff Thompson. Jeff and his girlfriend lived in New York, where he worked in finance and also sometimes went on the road to play with his band.

On September 11, he was at work, on one of the top floors of the Second World Trade tower, when the first plane hit Tower One. Seeing the destruction next door, he started downstairs, but no one followed. He was halfway down, when the second plane hit—above him—cutting off all of his colleagues; everyone he knew from work. The stairwells filled with people as they marched down to get out of the building, while firefighters and police struggled to get up. Jeff was barely out of the tower when it all collapsed behind him. He was covered in dust, and blood, and tears.

There were no phones. No cars. No way to get back home to his flat except to walk. And so he walked. He walked 18 miles, back to his apartment. When he arrived his girlfriend was home mourning his death. And when she opened the door, Jeff—covered in dust—looked like a ghost. They stood crying at one another. And then, he dropped to one knee and he asked her to marry him. That is how he answered the question, “what do you do now?”

In the days and years since, they have married. They have a son. Jeff has left the glamorous lifestyle of high finance and show business, for a quiet life in a small town, where he teaches math. He has committed to the things that matter most to him: his wife, his child, his community, and to educating the next generation. He can never make sense of that day, and he will never be able to accept why he was spared when so many other good people perished. But in the days and weeks that have followed he has rededicated himself to doing the things they might have done if they had lived: living a free and good life.

Each day since that terrible day offers each of us the chance to do good things that help others. In the face of the question of September 12—what do I do now? There is no answer other than: I will be better.

In the 10 years since September 11, survivors of terrorism around the world have struggled just as Jeff has to understand what happened, and why, and how to stop it from happening again. Free people have come together from New York to Nairobi, Bali to Belfast, Mumbai to Manila, Lahore to London, and many other places and nations afflicted by terrorism. We have all been more careful at our borders. We have been more aware in our intelligence. We have been more aggressive in our response to terror.

But we have been more than that. We have looked inward; and we have looked outward. We have been more inclusive of religions—learning each others traditions, hosting Iftars together, celebrating Ramadan and renewing our commitment to religious tolerance. We shared our thoughts and hopes and beliefs even more freely through our political processes. We innovated and built new ways to communicate—social media—that connected us to more people around the world than ever before in human history. We made more friends. And we invested more than ever in our alliances and in our communities around the world. We gave more aid. We supported more charities. We welcomed new Countries like South Sudan. And we celebrated the spirit of democracy among the people of Tunisia and other nations in this Arab Spring.

We fought even harder against agents of hate, and fear, and intolerance wherever they lived. Tens of thousands of us have served this cause, often putting our lives at risk in difficult and dangerous places. We've lost some of our best and bravest men and women. And all of us have invested billions of dollars to save the world from killers like Osama Bin Laden, and those who followed his sick beliefs.

The terrorists wanted us to respond in terror—to be afraid to live as we had, and to believe as we did. In the 10 years that have followed, we have done just the opposite. We went back into our office buildings. We went back onto our airplanes. We came together in our temples, and churches, and Mosques. We lined up at our ballot boxes. We volunteered to serve our nations. And we gathered publicly without fear, whether to enjoy the simple pleasures of a football game, or a concert, or a barbeque. And we came together each year on this day to remember those who we lost, and to rededicate our lives in their memory.

Today members of the Embassy did not mourn. They went to the Arboretum and planted new trees to make the world cleaner and more beautiful. They ran around Lake Burley Griffin to raise money to help those suffering from heart disease. We joined with our Australian friends to volunteer at homeless shelters, and with organizations throughout this City to live the principles and freedoms we cherish.

Around the world, we resisted the natural instinct of people when attacked to withdraw and close off; our response has been to reach out and embrace.

Confronted with hate, we choose not to hate.

Confronted with death, we choose to live.

Confronted with fear, we choose to hope.

We have done, as Jeff did 10 years ago tonight. Faced with unimaginable fear and death, he knelt to pledge his faith in love.

Thank you.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND HARVEST FOODBANK OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin and to honor all those who worked to make this exceptional food bank successful over the last quarter century.

In the summer of 1984, the dream of a food bank in Dane County became a reality when the Southern Wisconsin Regional Foodbank, Inc., eventually renamed Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, was created. It wasn't until 1986 that the first warehouse was established in Madison, but by the end of the year nearly three million pounds of food had been donated to 85 partner organizations. Over the next two decades, the food bank saw an explosion of increased services and growth, including countless new partnerships and programs, awards, and food distribution topping 6.8 million pounds by 2009.

Today, Second Harvest works hard to address the issue of hunger in our community. They handle 20,000 pounds of food per day, distributing over 8 million pounds through 350 partner agencies in sixteen Wisconsin counties annually. Second Harvest also operates services like the Kids Café and the Backpack programs, which provide food, nourishment, and health education to children. These programs are essential because statistics show that over 43% of those who do not have access to adequate amounts and types of healthy foods are children. Furthermore, the food bank operates thirty Mobile Pantry Program sites and has a long-standing partnership with the local NBC affiliate for their annual holiday food drive, providing an additional 1.5 million meals for families facing hunger.

Over the years, numerous people helped to make Second Harvest Foodbank an ongoing success. Today, a dedicated board of directors and admirable staff work to assist over 141,000 people in southwestern Wisconsin who continue to lack proper nutrition. It is without a doubt, however, that the impact that Second Harvest makes on our community

would not be possible without the ongoing generosity of volunteers. These inspirational and essential workers average over 5,000 hours of monthly service, equaling the work of 30 full-time employees. Further, each hour of donated time equals 63 meals, and with over 62,000 hours donated volunteers have helped share more than 3.9 million meals.

It is hard to overstate the positive impact that Second Harvest has had and will continue to have on our community. For the fifth year in a row, Charity Navigator rated Second Harvest with four stars, highlighting its commitment to returning 94 cents of every dollar donated back to support the charity. Last year, with the help of so many donations, the food bank shared over 8.1 million pounds of food and each of their five different programs saw great success and growth.

In the words of Second Harvest's President and CEO, Dan Stein, “It is possible to end hunger.” From Juneau to Green County, Crawford to Jefferson County and everywhere in between, Second Harvest has been a beacon of hope for our community and a model for charitable organizations. I proudly join those across Southern Wisconsin, the entire state, and the nation in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Second Harvest Foodbank and in thanking the employees, volunteers, and donors for their exemplary service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER LAFAYETTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR BEING NAMED NATIONAL CHAMBER OF THE YEAR

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday September 13, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for being named National Chamber of the Year by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.

This distinguished honor is awarded to chambers with superior member relations, operation management, and leadership within their community. The Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce has excelled in these areas over the past year. Panel members and former award recipients around the country determine which chambers are deemed most worthy to receive this title. I am very pleased our Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce was ranked as the best in the United States this year.

On August 4th, 2011, Lafayette's chamber was informed of this monumental accomplishment. This is the chamber's second national honor this year. Before receiving National Chamber of the Year, the Lafayette Chamber was given five stars by the United States Chamber of Commerce. Only one percent of chambers in the entire United States can claim this elite ranking.

The chamber's contributions to Lafayette and the surrounding areas continue to foster development and stability in the business arena. I thank them for their continued efforts to strengthen our community. The chamber is absolutely deserving of this esteemed award. On behalf of the people of South Louisiana, I offer my sincere congratulations.